

Downtown Revitalization Committee
Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 11, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Newington Town Hall

- I. **Roll Call:** Chairman McBride, Mrs. Cohen, Mayor Michael Lenares, Mr. Marocchini and Mr. Shields, Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Gerhart.

Others Present: Town Engineer, Anthony Ferraro; Town Planner, Ed Meehan; Engineer Consultant Gary Fontanella.

II. **Public Participation – Workshop Comments**

Dr. Walter Leckowicz – 103 Market Square expressed support for the most recent redesigned plan and noted need for handicapped ramp into his building. He agreed that this replacement was his expense to pay and requested coordination with the project contractor.

Dr. Leckowicz suggested that the middle of the three crosswalks be moved eastward. Mr. McBride responded that the alignment of the middle crosswalk is located to access the new sidewalk into the parking lot.

Mike Gallon, 43 Cheney Lane, Downtown Business Association member – Supports redesign and reminded Committee of the need to install signage for businesses and access to free public parking.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – Project needs to include uniform signage for better directions into parking lot.

III. **Project Update**

Gary Fontanella, Milone & MacBroom project engineers, made a PowerPoint presentation with photos to illustrate the existing conditions and design options for improving the Market Square Streetscape (attached).

Based on the public workshops and Committee's direction, Milone & MacBroom's initial opinion of Probable Construction Cost (Revised Dated 4-11-11) Adjusted Base Bid Project Total is \$1,086,225 for construction, plus \$64,000 for professional services during the construction phase. (see attached).

Estimated bid schedule could be as early as advertisement at end of May and award of bid in June. Start date after July 4th, the construction length would be 150 days, the majority of heavy work (pavement, pavers, concrete) would be done in the first three months with lighting and landscape planting completing the project in the fall.

Question of eliminating tree grates (\$38,000) cost reduction or treated as a bid alternate. Mr. Fontanella responded that the grates provide a wider walking surface and reduce maintenance. Consensus of the Committee was to keep the tree grates as a bid item.

Question on the need to have daily inspection. Town Engineer recommended that daily inspections at the project outset are important to get the project going and be a liaison with

businesses. The contract for professional services could be written to permit options for flexible inspection hours.

For street furniture items like bike racks, benches, trash receptacle, the bid package will ask for unit prices.

Crosswalks with pavers, average cost is approximately \$17,000 each. Location is based on a combination of factors including parking space layout, connections to parking lot, etc.

Mrs. Cohen asked for clarification of project budget allocations. Mr. Ferraro responded that with the Town Council's approval for \$300,000 in FY2011-2012 CIP the project will have \$1,200,000.

IV. Public Participation

Richard Simmons – agreed with the decision to use tree grates, cleaner and more room for walkers. Asked about mid block stop sign. Suggested that rather than granite and pavers for bump out, painting would be sufficient.

Rose Lyons – noted that the 2 hour parking enforcement seems to be working, observed more cars in parking lot.

Jay Amoruso – likes the revised plan but cautioned that the flat sidewalk area in front of 122 Market Square must be designed to flow drainage away from front of buildings.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website